

Thursday, May 26, 2011

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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – In response to the apprehension of alleged war criminal Ratko Mladic by in Serbia, U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan (MO-3) issued the following statement:

"After 16 years of being a fugitive, the former Bosnian Serb commander, Ratko Mladic, who committed mass atrocities during the three – year war, has finally been arrested and will be brought to justice to be held accountable for his crimes.

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I commend Serbian President Boris Tadic on the arrest of Mladic in Serbia, and urge swift transfer to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Indicted by the UN war-crimes tribunal in 1995, Mladic has avoided arrest and prosecution for far too long, and it is time he answer for his crimes.

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The capture of Ratko Mladic is a crucial step for moving Bosnia forward. This is an important reminder of the need for renewed attention on Bosnia in this important time. As they struggle to resolve the current political stalemate, all parties should use this an opportunity for serious reform and political reconciliation.”

Russ Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia. He is the Ranking Member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and a voting member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights.

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